

CONFIDENTIAL

11 April 1972


MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DD/I Special Research Staff
SUBJECT : Missing Enemy Soldiers

1. Attached is a draft memorandum which suggests that the strength in early 1972 of not only the Khmer Communists (KC), but more importantly of the Viet Cong (VC) in Cambodia was seriously underestimated. In the case of the VC, the number of soldiers missing from the Order of Battle was probably the combat equivalent of about three divisions. In view of the threat from Cambodia now developing north of Saigon, I respectfully suggest that an underestimate of this magnitude deserves high level attention, particularly since the omitted soldiers are among the Communists' best.

2. After the publication of the CIA memorandum VC/NVA Combat Forces in Cambodia Since the Deposition of Sihanouk (ER IM 72-36, March 1972), I repeatedly brought to the attention of its author the nature and the extent of his underestimate, including his omission of large numbers of independent VC combat units of battalion-size and less. He replied rather airily that units that small were ^{not} counted. I would merely point out that the number of Viet Cong battalions omitted from the OB probably exceeds forty.

3. I did the research for the attached draft while, with your permission, I was combining my old Cambodian files with those of OCI. Most of the memorandum was written on my own time last weekend.

4. My work on Peking's strategic thinking proceeds apace. However, I have yet to unearth a Chinese strategic thought that hasn't been dug up already by someone else. The only mildly interesting possibility I have come upon so far is that the US official OB for the Chinese Communist Army may be too low by a couple of million. Deja Vu.


Samuel A. Adams

25X11